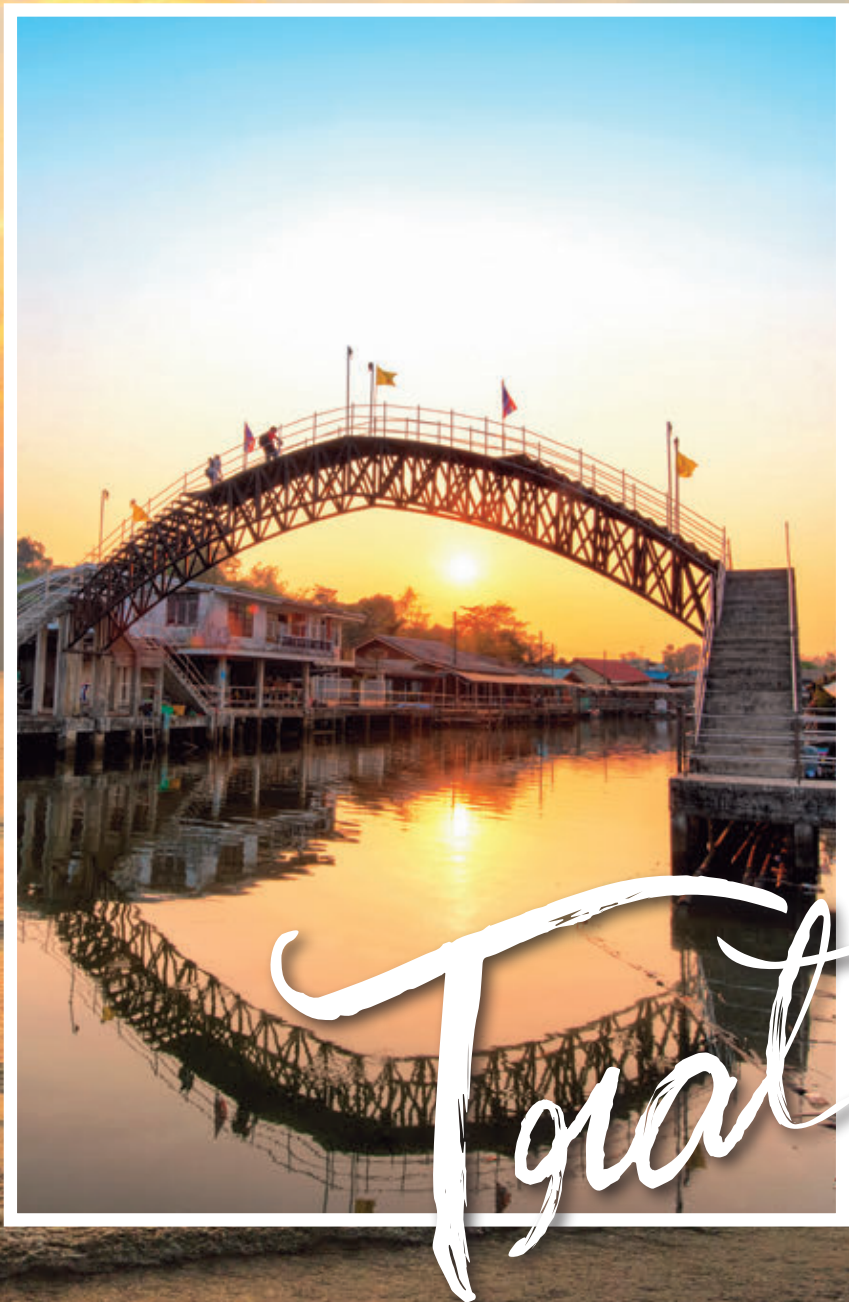


Open to ^{the} New *Shades*





Trat

Trat is a small province in Thailand's east, about 315 km. from Bangkok, bordering Cambodia on the east, with the Khao Banthat mountain range forming a natural demarcation, with the Gulf of Thailand to the south. Trat is a resort area that encompasses over 50 islands of varying size, long white sandy beaches and unspoiled coral reefs. It is also a major fruit-growing and fishing area. It is thought that the name "Trat" is a corruption of "Krat", the name of a type of tree used in broom production that is plentiful here. During the reign of King Rama V, the Thai government made a treaty with France granting this area them so they would withdraw its force from Chanthaburi. Years later on March 23, 1906, the King had granted areas on the right bank of the Mekong River to France, in exchange for Trat, and residents now regard March 23 as "Trat Independence Day".

How To Get There

By Car

From Bangkok, take one of these three routes:

1. Bang Na-Trat (Highway 3) via Chon Buri, Rayong and Chanthaburi, a total distance of 385 km.
2. Highway 344 via Chon Buri, Klaeng and Chanthaburi, a distance of 318 km.
3. Take the motorway from the Sri Nagarind-Ramkhamhaeng Intersection and drive via Ban Bueng, Klaeng and Chanthaburi.

By Bus

Air-conditioned and fan-cooled buses are available at the Bangkok Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekkamai) Sukhumvit Road. A first-class air-conditioned bus takes 5 hours to get to Trat.

- Fan-cooled buses: Contact Bangkok Eastern Bus Terminal (Ekkamai) at Tel. +66 2391 2504, or +66 2391 4164.
- First-class air-conditioned bus leaving Bangkok Bus Terminal (Mochit 2) to Trat everyday along the Motorway. Tel. +66 2537 8055, +66 2936 2852-6.

Private transportation companies include:

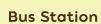
- Cherdchai Tour at Tel. +66 2391 2237, or +66 2391 4164, Trat office Tel. +66 3951 1062;
- Chokanukun Tour at Tel. +66 2392 7680, Trat office at Tel. +66 3951 1587
- Suppharat Tour which provides VIP buses, Tel. +66 2391 2331, Trat office Tel. +66 3951 1481.

By Air

Bangkok Airways has flights from Bangkok to Trat (Amphoe Khao Saming) on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Tel. +66 2270 6699, 1771, or Trat office: Tel. +66 3952 5767-8, +66 3952 5299 www.bangkokair.com. (A transfer service is available from the airport to the ferry pier where tourists can take a ferry to Ko Chang.)



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1 Ban Nam Chiao

About 8 km. from town on the Trat-Laem Ngop route, the village is famous for a type of sun hat, the Ngop Nam Chiao. The hat is woven from palm leaves from plants grown in mangrove area. You can purchase them in various shapes as a souvenir.

2 Ko Chang

Ko Chang is known historically as a safe harbour for ships to gather fresh water and supplies or to shelter from the monsoon, well known to pirates, Hai Lam Chinese and Vietnamese. The island is the second largest in Thailand after Phuket, with an area of approximately 429 square kilometres. The topography includes high mountains and complex stone cliffs. The highest peak is Khao Salak Phet which is 744 metre high, rich in fertile evergreen forest and is the island's main water source. There are many waterfalls, beaches and fringing reefs to the west of the island.



There are several places of interest in Ko Chang:

Namtok Than Mayom a four-tiered waterfall located some 500 m. via the National Park headquarters' garden King Rama V, King Rama VII and Queen Rambhai Barni often visit and the royal initials can be found on the rock.

Namtok Khlong Phlu is a large waterfall located 3 km. from Ao Khlong Phrao, which has water cascading down 3 tiers to a basin.

Hat Sai Yao located near Ao Salak Phet in the south is a long stretch of sandy beach. Accommodation is available.

Ban Salak Phet This fishing village is located in a large sheltered bay in the south. There is an old temple in front of the village called Wat Salak Phet built in the reign of King Rama V on his royal visit to the island.

Bang Bao Fishery Village is a village of houses on stilts over the sea with bridges connecting them together. Most of the villagers are descendants of the Salak Phet villagers, living a simple way of life and earning their living from coastal fishery.

Hat Kai Bae a long, sloping stretch of beach connecting with Hat Khlong Phrao. There are several bungalows for rent at budget prices, some with mountain bikes available.

Hat Khlong Phrao – Laem Chaiyachet another long sloping beach with bungalows for rent. The northernmost end of Ao Khlong Phrao connects with Laem Chaiyachet, a scenic rocky cape.

3 Ko Lao Ya

Ko Lao Ya is a group of islands located to the south including; Ko Lao Ya Nai; Ko Lao Ya Klang and Ko Lao Ya Nok each with pristine beaches, clear sea water and beautiful fringing reefs. Accommodation is available.



4 Ko Wai

Ko Wai is south of Ko Chang near Ko Lao Ya, around 2.30 hours from Laem Ngop. The bay to the north of the island is home to pristine fringing reefs and to the western area of Ao Yai hard corals and giant clams. Accommodation is available.



5 Ko Kut

Ko Kut is Trat's easternmost island and the province's second largest. Located 80 km. from Trat, it covers a total area of 105 square kilometres. This mountainous island has ridges forming the headwater of many streams and waterfalls, the most famous of which is Namtok Wang Chao, a three-tiered waterfall which flows year-round.

On the western side of the island, there are plenty of white sandy beaches; and on the eastern side, sheltered bays and more pretty beaches. The nearby islands of Ko Raet and Ko Mai are home to untouched mangrove forests, and colourful fringing reefs. Accommodation is available.



6 Ko Mak

Ko Mak is a large island located between Ko Chang and Ko Kut, approximately 38 km. from the mainland, shaped like a 4-pointed star. The topography is mostly coastal plain with a thicket of coconut groves and rubber plantations. Scenic bays and sandy beaches and fringing reefs surround the island including Ao Ta Nit, Ao Prong, Ao Phat and Ao Daeng. Best time to visit is October to May. Accommodation is available.





7 Ko Kradat

Ko Kradat is northeast of Ko Mak and has a flat paper-like topography with an abundance of *Alocasia* plants ('Kradat' in Thai) growing wild. The island has a long, white sandy beach with beautiful fringing reefs. Best time to visit is October to May. Accommodation is available.

8 Ko Kham

Ko Kham is a small island near Ko Mak. The main attraction here is the island's serene atmosphere, with sandy beaches and crystal-clear water. The fringing reef on east side of the island is great for diving. Accommodation is available.



9 Muko Rang

A group of uninhabited islets west of Ko Mak is a great spot for scuba diving to admire the beautiful coral, teeming with marine life.

10 Ban Huai Raeng

Ban Huai Raeng is a homestay village located by a canal and mangrove forest, about 30 km. from town, where visitors can explore the local way of life. Visit mangosteen and rambutan orchards and learn how to make "Khao Ho Kap Mak", a local dish of cooked rice with chili paste and herbs packed in betel palm leaves.



11 Ban Tha Ranae

Fifteen minutes from Trat, Tha Ranae Village is a community-based tourism attraction within a mangrove forest near the Trat River mouth. The best way to explore this unique eco-system is by long tail boat which can take you deep into the mangrove forest.



12 Trat History Museum

Trat History Museum tells the story of Trat from its early days as an important stopover for Chinese traders, to French occupation in the early 1900's and the WWII Battle of Ko Chang. There are several multimedia exhibits, with captions in both Thai and English. The museum is housed in the old City Hall, beautiful colonial-era wooden building that has been lovingly restored.

Getting to Nearby Provinces

Chanthaburi: Regular service from Trat Market, leaving Trat daily every half an hour from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The journey takes 1½ hours and the fare is approximately 40 Baht.

Taxi is another option to Chanthaburi, leaving Wongwian Nam Phu (Fountain Circle) in Chanthaburi and by Mueang Trat Hotel in Trat from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The journey takes nearly 1½ hours and the fare is Bt 60 each (5–6 persons/taxi).

Getting Around

- Trat Khlong Yai (Song Thaeo minibus), 75 km., departs Municipal Market 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fare is 80 Baht. (connection from Khlong Yai to Ban Hat Lek costs 20 Baht).
- Trat to Ban Hat Lek (Van), 90 km., departs Si Trat Rama Theatre 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fare is 110 Baht.
- Trat/Laem Ngop (Song Thao minibus), 30 km., departs Trat Municipal Market 6 a.m. The fare is 20 Baht.
- Trat/Laem Sok (Song Thao minibus), 28 km., departs Trat Municipal Market 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fare is 35 Baht.
- Trat/Khao/Samingand/Bo Rai, 53 km., departs Trat Municipal Market 8.00 a.m. to midnight. The fare is 50 Baht.
- Trat/Khao Saming/Saen Tung/Tha Chot, 28 km., 06.00 a.m. – 05.30 p.m. The fare is 25 Baht.

Generally, transportation to various districts starts from the provincial town. The Song Thao minibuses leave the Municipal Market and Bank of Ayudhya daily.



www.tourismthailand.org

